Cutting Woods in North East

2785. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has not restricted the cutting of woods of the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of Supreme Court judgement in this regard; and

(c) how far it affects the resource mobilisation from forests in North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Supreme Court vide its order dated 12.5.2001 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 has directed that felling of trees from forests shall be done in accordance with the working plans/schemes or felling schemes approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as per its earlier order dated 15.1.1998. For felling of trees from non-forest area including in respect of plantations on non-forest areas, detailed guidelines/rules shall be framed by the State Governments which shall come into effect after the same are concurred with modification, if any, by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) It is expected that strict compliance of these orders would result in sustained availability of forest resources.

Development of Sabrimala

2786. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to allot forest land for development of Sabarimala in Kerala is pending for clearance with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Sabarimala is situated inside Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. According to section-29 of the Wildlife